

a higher  
**LOVE**  
*Always Forgives*

---

Easter, April 4, 2010 - Pastor David Carothers

*"I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand... the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."*  
Ephesians 1:18-20 NLT

*"And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation."* 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NLT

- **FORGIVENESS IS NOT** \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"I— yes, I alone— will blot out your sins for My own sake and will never think of them again."*  
Isaiah 43:25 NLT

- **FORGIVENESS IS A CHOICE** \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*"[Jesus] personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed."*  
1 Peter 2:24 NLT

**TO BE FREE OF DEBT I MUST EITHER...**

- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ PAYMENTS
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ PAYMENTS

*"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."* Matthew 6:12 NIV

**I SHOULD FORGIVE BECAUSE...**

- **GOD** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."*  
Ephesians 4:32 NLT

- **RESENTMENT** \_\_\_\_\_

*"One man dies in full vigor, completely secure and at ease. Another man dies in bitterness of soul, never having enjoyed anything good."* Job 21:23, 25 NIV

# I SHOULD FORGIVE BECAUSE...

- **I'LL** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Jesus – “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*  
Matthew 6:14-15 NLT

## HOW DO I RELEASE OTHERS FROM THEIR DEBT?

- **LET GOD'S FORGIVENESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Jesus – “Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’”*  
Matthew 18:32-33 NLT

- **CLARIFY THEIR CHANGE** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Jesus – “But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”*  
Mark 11:25 NLT

- **REFOCUS MY** \_\_\_\_\_ **AND** \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”*  
Philippians 4:8 NLT

*Jesus – “Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.”*  
Luke 6:28-31 NLT

- **DRAW ON** \_\_\_\_\_  
*“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.”*  
1 Corinthians 1:18 NLT

*“By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him...”* 2 Peter 1:3 NLT